

The Michigan Association of Timbermen

December 8, 2014

House Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Andrea LaFontaine, Chair
The Honorable Bruce Rendon, Vice Chair
The Honorable Scott Dianda
The Honorable Ken Goike
The Honorable Joel Johnson
The Honorable John Kivela
The Honorable Ed McBroom
The Honorable Charles Smiley, Minority Vice Chair
The Honorable Roger Victory
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representatives of the House Natural Resources Committee,

The Michigan Association of Timbermen hopes that you will recommend to the full House of Representatives to support Senate Bill 78 during Lane Duck session with no modifications.

This biodiversity bill is crucial in maintaining the sound forest management that the forest industry in Michigan needs to continue to provide to the state's economy and ensure the health of our state's forests. SB78 is clear in the language that we support regarding "balancing economic values" while managing our state forests for all aspects.

The Timbermen members fully understand the need to protect sensitive natural areas in our state and also that biodiversity in our forests is important but we cannot continue "lock up" economically productive state forest land. We must continue to implement current management plans for state forest areas that have been successfully managed for decades.

Page 8-10 of SB78, Section 52502 are the most crucial part of the bill. Those are the cusp of the needs of continuing to manage our state forest lands for optimal wood fiber productivity. Our members rely heavily on the timber harvest volumes from state timber sales and we need to prevent any losses to those volumes. SB78 does just that by preventing more state land from being removed from active management and placed into a biodiversity "bubble".

Our members urge you, the House Natural Resources Committee, to support SB78 and also urge the full House of Representatives to support it without modifications.

Thank you for your time on this matter.

Sincerely,



Brenda Owen, Executive Director